



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**147TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRED SCOTT DECISION
AT THE OLD COURTHOUSE**

ST. LOUIS, MO.- **Saturday, March 6, 2004** the National Park Service invites the public to a special program to commemorate the Dred Scott decision and to reflect on how it led to the events that abolished slavery and still affect our civil rights today.

12:00 Noon CONCERT

The songs and music of **Ms. Desraie Holmes** take us through the dreams and struggles for freedom and equality.

1:00 p.m. FREDERICK DOUGLASS SPEAKS: DRED SCOTT DECISION

Presented by renowned actor and educator, **Fred Morsell**. Hear the powerful, articulate voice of the most influential black abolitionist and one of the most remarkable Americans speak with indignation against the decision to "maintain and perpetuate a system of rapine and murder like slavery," and yet speak with equal determination in support of the Constitution created to "establish Justice, insure Tranquility ... and secure the Blessings of Liberty."

NOTE: Ms. Holmes and Mr. Morsell are available for pre-arranged interviews about their programs. You may contact Ms. Holmes at bdsrd@aol.com and Mr. Morsell at 406-333-4970 or fremarjo@frederickdouglass.org.

*The Old Courthouse is open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All ranger and special museum programs are **free** of charge. For reservations and additional information call 314-655-1700 weekdays or 314-655-1626 on weekends and holidays, or 7-1-1 Voice/TTY Telecommunications Relay Service, or you can visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/jeff>.*

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.